

The image features a decorative border composed of gold-colored outlines of flowers and leaves, set against a white background. The border is composed of several elements: a large, detailed flower on the left side, a smaller flower on the right side, and several smaller flowers and leaves interspersed along the bottom and right edges. The central text is framed by a thin gold border.

CHNS 3301

VEXPO

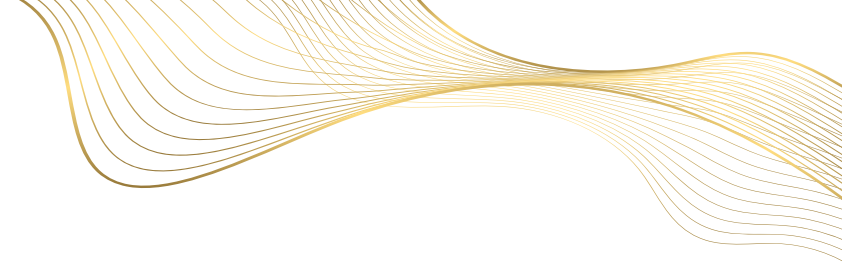
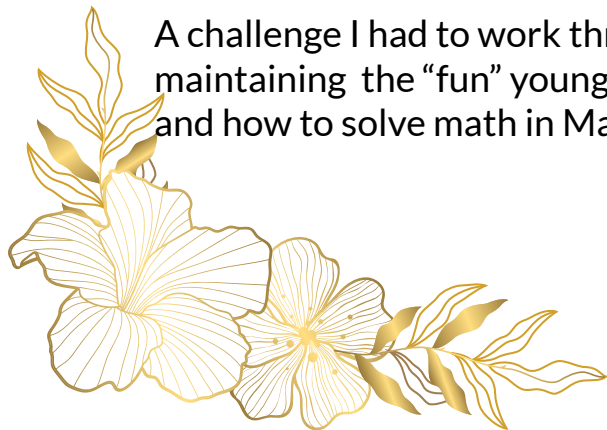
Reflection

潘诗婷: Anna Pan

S-L Location: MLK School

My favorite memory at MLK School was my last day TA-ing the class when the students had a science experiment to build an automatic light and command it to turn on and off when the door closed or opened with cardboard boxes and wires. During and proceeding the experiment, the student were informed that it was my last day, and the students were eager to savor every last minute with me by talking with me and having me join assist in their experiments. The best part of when the when the students huddled together to make a plan to “sneak” me into the school for the future, so I can continue visiting them .

A challenge I had to work through was balancing both gaining the respect of the students while also still maintaining the “fun” young adult vibe. I learned various of new vocabularies, Chinese cultures/stories, and how to solve math in Mandarin as well.





戴林娜: Karina Davis

S-L Location: Torre Unidad LBFE

My favorite memory was when I help an older person learn how to find their favorite television shows on youtube, because they had not been able to watch them in years via streaming. It was really meaningful to me that I got to be a part of their life getting a little brighter, and was the culmination of weeks of learning about how to search, type on the computer, and navigate different websites.

One of the main challenges that I had to navigate was the language barrier. I ended up learning some words that are more specific to computers that I hadn't known before, but we also had to use a lot of pointing and gestures, as well as the occasional writing down of characters, especially because some of the older adults could not understand my accent easily, and others were hard of hearing. However, it was a great way to experience and emphasise with how they probably feel often.

Also, one lady recommended a really good grocery store to me, which was nice.






毛玉廷: Sienna Joseph

S-L Location: Morville House

My favorite memory at Morville House was when the older adults became so much more comfortable with talking to me that they started talking to me like their own granddaughter. They would give me and Nolan mangoes from Chinatown and they would give life advice. One older adult was talking to me about how I reminded her a lot like her daughter when she was younger and liked seeing me weekly as if I was her daughter.

A challenge I had to work through was trying to communicate complex technological issues that were not very easily communicated when you don't know the vocabulary, however, I still managed to assist their issues and worked it out.

What I have learned from this experience was how valuable it is to have such a relationship with a grandparent because they give life advice like no one else could. These relationships are what make you feel the most at-home and where you are always loved and complimented.





罗凯琳: Caitlin Cepeda

S-L Location: Action for Boston Community Development

My favorite memory while serving for ABCD was when my foster grandparents showed me the beautiful origami they had been working on outside our meetings. I had had some difficulty coming up with engaging activities every week which were interesting for everyone. It just so happens that I also enjoy origami (though my skills were certainly more elementary than theirs), and we spent our remaining two meetings making birds, rabbits, and other cute animals!






尹慕贞: Imogen Daszak

S-L Location: 2-Life Communities Campus



My favorite memory from 2-Life communities was helping one lady finally learn how to put her friend's contact in her phone. She had been wanting to for a long time, and with our help she was finally able to get in contact with her.

I found it challenging to communicate with technology-focused vocabulary, as I only had learned a limited amount prior to this service work. Despite this challenge, I had an amazing time and it felt really good to be able to help people. Everyone I met was very nice I loved hearing about their families and experiences :)





洪彭英: Mei Rizzo

S-L Location: 334 Mass Ave

My favorite memory from LBFE was learning how to play 'Cribbage' with one of the program's beneficiaries. Every week, I looked forward to starting a new game (even though I only won once the entire time)!

I also looked forward to chatting with this Mandarin speaking couple each week while doing coloring. The man is an oil painter and has travelled the world. He was always particularly excited to talk with me about Italy and Sicily.

Working with LBFE taught me the importance of building community for older adults.





龚令得: Nolan Young

S-L Location: Morville House

My favorite memories at Morville House was interacting with a resident called George. He was there every week, showing so much kindness and care to the students that were helping. We instantly built a connection and I helped him a lot with his tech help. I am proud to have achieved two concrete objectives during my time at Morville House. I was able to help George get free wifi through signing him up for the Affordable Connectivity Program, and helped him get a refund on Ebay. George was incredibly kind and gave me my favorite fruit, Mango! Overall i had a fantastic experience at Morville House.





Jack Rudden

S-L Location South Cove

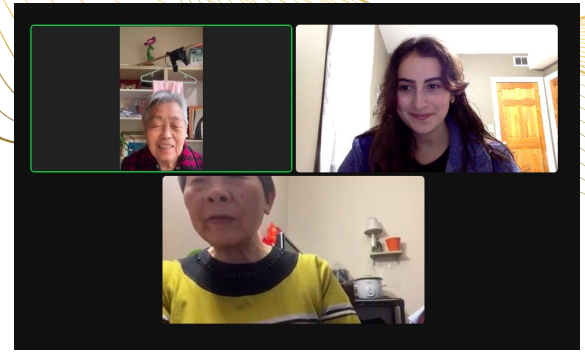
My favorite memory from my service learning was getting jokingly invited to visit one of my older students family in Beijing. During my time I had not interacted with her much but when I eventually was answering one of her questions, she complimented me and my mandarin and made an off comment of joining her on a flight back to China. This comment reassured me that I am somewhat able to communicate in Mandarin.

One of the big challenges of this experience was getting over my initial fear of saying something incorrectly or being unable to understand a question. I have not had many chances to actually test how good I am at conversing only in Mandarin. What I quickly realized is that once you relax and take it a little slow, while you may make people impatient you will also give yourself time to refocus and get over the initial shock of not understanding what someone has said immediately



孟凯特 Kate Mehta

S-L Location: ABCD



My favorite memory at my service learning was sharing fun things about my day with my two Nainais. Every week it was so nice to catch up with them, talk about what we did today and what we are looking forward to the next weekend. It was also so sweet when they sang happy birthday for me after my birthday!

A challenge was at the start of service learning, we could not figure out why our zoom meetings weren't working, so having to troubleshoot that, and having to miss a session was a big challenge, but I was very proud of my Nainai's ability to learn and adapt well with zoom.

I will miss seeing them every week, and watching funny and educational Youtube videos with them. I will never forget their funny comments when we were watching Chinese speaking comedian Jesse Appell!





Zoe Condon

S-L Location: ABCD

My favorite memory during zooms with my Chinese “foster grandparents” was when one of the ladies was trying to tell me something and repeated it over and over, but I couldn’t understand. I pulled up a document and typed out what I thought she was saying so we could find where the confusion was. When we finally connected and I understood and responded to her, we were both so excited!

It was hard to figure out what to do for each session and how to keep up a conversation for a full hour with my limited Chinese language ability. I gained a lot of problem solving skills during this service learning experience.

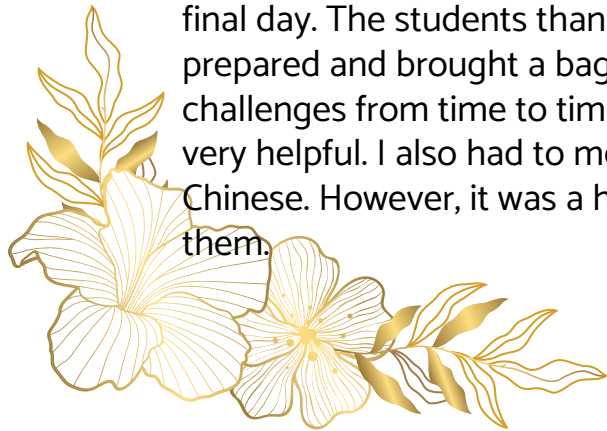




辛栢恩: Jeongeun Shin

S-L Location: South Cove

My favorite memory at South Cove was witnessing the progress of older adults as they became more comfortable utilizing different functions on computers and interacting with other volunteers. Towards the end of the lessons, many of them became proficient typists and were able to explore the world of the internet. Seeing their excitement when discovering a new "cool" function on computers or phones made me very happy. The older adults were always kind, engaging, and respectful, which motivated me to help them even more. On the last day of our class, our instructor Teresa announced that it was our final day. The students thanked us by saying "谢谢, 小老师。" One of the ladies in the class even prepared and brought a bag of chocolates for all the instructors to share and enjoy. There were challenges from time to time. I felt particularly frustrated when I couldn't understand them and wasn't very helpful. I also had to memorize simple terminology such as "type," "click," and "press buttons" in Chinese. However, it was a heartwarming experience, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to engage with them.





Weslyn Cai

S-L Location: South Cove

My favorite memory is when one woman came in late and brought in a bunch of oranges. She did this two weeks in a row. The first time I was just standing in the back, waiting for class to start, when she came hurrying in and thrust a bag of clementines into my hands. The second time, it was an entire grocery bag of full-sized oranges. We split some of it, but ended up leaving it for the staff to split across later classes.

The most challenging aspect was not being able to help. Specifically there was one man who spoke very softly, and so it was difficult to understand his questions. In addition to that, he often struggled following the classes, so it was definitely hard seeing him struggle and yet not being able to help or explain things properly. However, it was definitely rewarding when I was able to explain something so he understood!

It was overall a good experience; the people in the program were all very nice and sweet, and super understanding when we had trouble explaining something to them. I definitely enjoyed talking to them about their lives, and little things such as a cute sweater or a yummy food!

